

SEVERE STORMS FOR MARCH 1949

[The table hereunder contains such data as have been received concerning severe local storms that occurred during the month. A revised list will appear in the United States Meteorological Yearbook]

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Bakersfield, Calif.	4	3:07-4 p. m.				Thunderstorm	Caused flash floods. Reported to be one of the most severe thunderstorms on record in San Joaquin Valley. Some basements flooded, and minor damage reported to house foundations, landscapes, etc.
Do.	7	3:58-5:55 a. m., 6:36-8 p. m.				do.	Flooded streets and some first floors of store and office buildings, damaging house foundations, landscapes, etc.
On Green Bay east of Menominee, Mich.	7				\$150,000	Ice breakup	Strong southerly winds caused sudden movement of ice field away from shore, endangering lives of about 100 commercial fishermen. All escaped to shore, but 3 trucks and considerable number of fishing nets lost.
Banks (2 miles north of), Ark.	9	10:30 a. m.	100	0	1,000	Tornado	1 house blown from foundation and roof blown off another.
Deridder, La.	9	11:30 a. m.	50	0	18,000	do.	Moved northeastward; path short. 1 person injured; 15 homes and 1 building damaged.
Terry, Miss.	9	1:30 p. m.		1	10,000	Thundersquall	27 persons injured when schoolhouse destroyed.
White Haven (9 miles south-east of Memphis), Tenn.	9	4:36-4:50 p. m.	35		10,000	Thunderstorm, hail and wind.	Storm associated with passage of cold front. 4 homes of poor construction completely demolished, small buildings destroyed, and trees uprooted. 5 people injured.
Columbus, Ga.	9	8-8:30 p. m.			10,000	Wind and electrical	Break windstorm struck 2 separate points in northern part of Columbus. Wind speed 60 to 70 m. p. h., caused rather heavy damages with injuries to 1 person. Power and communication lines blown down. Some lightning damage; concessions in city park badly damaged. Fragment of signboard crashed through windshield of automobile badly lacerating face of rider. Similar storm struck Phoenix City, Ala., just across river from Columbus at same time.
Ohio, western and northern counties.	10	A. m.				Snow	Snow up to 7 inches in some localities; drifted badly, impeding traffic. Roads icy in spots. Rural schools closed. Some traffic accidents and injuries.
Dade City, Fla.	14	Midnight		0	8,000	Tornado	Destroyed barn and contents, twisted off pine trees, and carried portions of galvanized iron barn roofing distance of half mile. No injuries.
Howey-in-the-Hills, Lake County, Fla.	14	do.		0	15,000	do.	Uprooted over 500 citrus trees, mostly large grapefruit. Some grapefruit trees carried several hundred feet. 1 home partially unroofed and power lines broken. No injuries.
Wilson, N. C.	18	9:10 a. m.			12,000	Wind	Preceded passage of cold front.
Lake City, Fla.	18	1:22-1:25 p. m.		0		Tornado	Small twister moved 4 miles northeastward then eastward.
Jacksonville, Fla.	18	2:05-2:20 p. m.			800	Wind	Blew down 40-foot section of wooden shed, damaging 2 parked cars.
Hookerton, N. C.	18	4:15 p. m.		0		Tornado	A very small storm.
Miami, Fla.	20					Rain	24-hour rain of 7.07 inches flooded low ground areas at International Airport.
Rapides and LaSalle, Parishes, La.	21	Noon		0	55,000	Tornado	Moved northeastward; path about 20 miles long. 2 injuries; 1 home, and 11 buildings destroyed; 14 homes damaged.
Walthall and Lincoln Counties, Miss.	21	P. m.	50	0	10,000	do.	1 person injured at Fair Oak Springs; 1 home and 2 other buildings destroyed. \$5,000 damage to crops included in total.
Yazoo, Humphreys, and Holmes Counties, Miss.	21	P. m.	100	1	100,000	do.	Moved northeastward. 19 persons injured. 6 homes and 15 other buildings destroyed, and 52 homes and 65 other buildings damaged; mostly tenant houses and barns.
Vermillion, S. Dak.	24	1:50 p. m.		0		do.	Lasted 10 minutes; moved northward about a mile, striking 3 farms. 4 sheds, 2 barns, 3 windmills, and wagon boxes destroyed. Power lines snapped.
Lincoln, Nebr.	24	3 p. m.			2,600	Wind	38 m. p. h. fastest mile at city office. Damage to copper sheet roof of capitol \$2,000, and to plate glass windows \$600.
Iowa, northern portion	24	Afternoon				Wind, rain, and hail	Extensive damage in several local communities. Struck 2 farms at Grafton, 15 miles northeast of Mason City, destroying large barn, several smaller buildings, and killed some livestock. At Woolstock, north of Webster City, 1 house unroofed, plate glass windows in stores broken, and many utility wires downed.
Oak Grove, La.	24	10 p. m.	100	0	63,000	Tornado	2 injured; 3 homes, 14 other buildings destroyed; 11 homes, 6 other buildings damaged. Storm developed near Oak Grove, La., and moved into Washington and Sunflower Counties, Miss.
Washington and Sunflower Counties, Miss.	24	11-11:30 p. m.	100	7	295,000	do.	Moved into Washington County from Louisiana on a northeastward track of 90 miles in both States. 67 persons injured in Mississippi; 43 homes destroyed and 54 others damaged; 38 other buildings destroyed and 50 damaged; mostly small tenant houses and barns.
Maryville and vicinity, Nodaway County, Mo.	24					Wind	Exceeded 50 m. p. h. at times. Damaged out-buildings and roofs of sheds. Scattered corn cribs. Broke a number of tree limbs and uprooted a few old trees.
Benjamin, Knox County, Tex.	25	7:10 a. m.	11	0	35,000	Tornado	Plate glass store windows broken. Business house roofs damaged.
Dallas, Tex.	25	8:58 a. m.			30,000	Wind	Lumber yard demolished. Telephone system damaged. Light hail.
Desdemona, Eastland County, Tex.	25	12:25 p. m.	800	0	31,000	Tornado	9 shops in Oak Cliff, Cedar Crest, and Skyline sections wrecked; plate glass windows damaged. Light to moderate hail in some sections.
Tippah County, Miss.	25	8 p. m.		0	25,000	do.	Entire northwest section of town destroyed. 14 homes completely destroyed; 8 cars damaged.
Itawamba County, Miss.	25	8 p. m.		0	52,300	do.	1 home and 3 other buildings destroyed; 5 homes and 14 other buildings damaged. 1 person injured.
De Leon, Comanche County, Tex.	25	11:55 p. m.		0	200,000	do.	3 homes and 11 other buildings destroyed; 8 homes and 20 other buildings damaged.
Martinsburg, Mo.	26	1-2 a. m.			500	Electrical	A 60-foot steel tower crumbled. Windows in electric main plant shattered, and roof torn from office building.
Fort Worth, Tex.	26	1:10 a. m.			20,000	Wind	Lightning damaged house; also knocked out 11 lines at telephone switchboards.
Jay, Parker County, Tex.	26	1:30 a. m.	83	0	10,000	Tornado	Buildings unroofed. Hangars blown down, and airplanes damaged, Electric and telephone wires broken.
Springtown, Parker County, Tex.	26	1:30 a. m.	880	0	100,000	do.	Damage to buildings and equipment.
Southmayd, Grayson County, Tex.	26	2 a. m.			18,000	Wind	Destruction ranged from total to light damage. Wrecked 15 homes and 2 stores. At least 6 persons injured. Hail size of small marbles, caused no damage.
Pittsburg and Adair Counties, Okla.	26	3:55-5:40 a. m.	(?)	2	230,000	Tornado	Small buildings damaged. Several windmills blown down. Porches ripped from several homes. Crop damage, \$3,000 included in total.
Tontitown (near), Ark.	26	6 a. m.	16	0	2,500	do.	Moved northeastward from Ward Spring to Haywood, to Shady Grove, through Crowder to 5 miles northeast in Pittsburg County, with skipping effect over a path approximately 20 miles long, then apparently skipped 88 miles northeastward to Westville in Adair County. Probably a single tornado as timing and direction in line with a forward progress of 50 m. p. h. 25 persons injured at Crowder, where 13 business houses and 50 homes destroyed. Several buildings damaged at Haywood. Damage \$180,000 in Pittsburg County, \$50,000 in Adair County.

See footnotes at end of table.

SEVERE STORMS FOR MARCH 1949—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Seymour, Baylor County, Tex.	26	6 a. m.	-----	-----	2,000	Wind	Unroofed 1 lumber yard and 3 small barns. Light hail.
El Paso, Tex.	26	Afternoon	-----	-----	500	do	Small damage to roofs. A little small hail.
Clark to Poinsett Counties, Ark.	26	2:30-4:30 p. m.	1 1/4 to 2	19	-----	Tornado, accompanied by torrential rains and hail.	Storm moved northeastward. First struck Whelen Springs, where 1 person killed and 7 injured; 13 houses, 5 barns and a church destroyed. Great timber loss near Dalark. In England, Scott, and Keo communities of Lonoke and Pulaski Counties 13 persons killed and 49 injured. 30 houses demolished and 30 others damaged. Cars and trucks blown from highway. Furniture torn to bits and scattered for miles. Damage in these communities about \$500,000. At Hensley, Pulaski County, high wind, hail and heavy rain; Lassiter school leveled. At Lonoke, Lonoke County, 1 woman killed by lightning. At Hazen, Prairie County, several persons injured. Houses completely destroyed. Barns and outbuildings demolished; machinery and brooders destroyed. Livestock killed. \$100,000 damage this area. In Howell-Wiville Community, near McCrory, Woodruff County, 1 person killed and several injured. At Tipp, south of McCrory, several persons killed and 4 injured; 10 homes destroyed. At Beedeville, Jackson County, 13 persons injured; houses destroyed. At Augusta, Woodruff County, 1 person killed and several injured; houses destroyed. Harrisburg, Poinsett County, railroad station damaged. Telephone lines down; rice mill heavily damaged; city jail unroofed. In the 10 counties hit, 57 persons hospitalized and 95 more injured; 156 buildings demolished or damaged, 204 families affected; 111 homes destroyed, 90 damaged.
Bollinger County, Mo.	26	4:30-4:45 p. m.	150	0	1,000	Tornado	7 persons injured, 2 seriously. Killed some hogs. Damaged a few homes, barns, garages and outbuildings. Storm struck in thinly-settled community.
Pemiscot County, Mo.	26	5:40-6:15 p. m.	-----	-----	-----	Winds, lightning and hail.	3 small farm homes demolished by wind, a few miles west of Caruthersville, injuring several people. Another home blown off its foundation, and 13 transmission line poles felled. Near Hayti, large barn blown down.
Webster, Calhoun, Pontotoc, Lee and Prentiss Counties, Miss.	26	6:45-8:45 p. m.	200	2	627,000	Tornado	Developed in Webster County and moved northeastward to near Booneville, Prentiss County, over path 60 miles long, passing near Tupelo. Greatest damage at Belden and Chesterville. A new \$60,000 school and a church destroyed. 33 persons injured; 33 homes and 116 other buildings destroyed; 60 homes and 330 other buildings damaged.
Dexter and Hardin, Marshall and Calloway Counties, Ky.	26	7:45-7:47 p. m.	200	0	19,400	do	Path about 5 1/2 miles long. 2 persons seriously injured by falling buildings. 4 houses, 10 barns, and 12 small outbuildings demolished; many others damaged. 300 poultry killed.
Calhoun, Ky.	26	9 p. m.	-----	-----	5,000	Wind	2 persons injured when grocery store and a restaurant damaged.
New Cypress (near Graham), Muhlenberg County, Ky.	26	9-9:05 p. m.	50	0	20,000	Tornado	Path 2 miles long. 2 persons seriously injured. 4 dwellings, 2 barns and many outbuildings demolished; 5 houses, 8 barns, and 2 automobiles damaged. Many chickens killed.
Troy, Tenn.	26	During night	-----	0	100,000	Tornado and rain	Trees, and telephone and power wires blown down, disrupting service Bank of Troy, Salant Shirt Factory, a church, funeral home, telephone exchange, and stores damaged. Heavy rain added to damage. Nearly all of homes damaged; some destroyed. 2 persons injured.
Nebraska, southwestern and central portions.	29-30	-----	1 130	4	300,000	Snow and gale	23 inches of snow fell at Hayes Center; 12 to 20 inches elsewhere in southwest, and ranging up to 10 to 15 inches in north-central localities. Heavy snow accumulating on wires, with subfreezing temperatures, caused much breakage of poles and wires, resulting in loss of power and communications. Damage of this character about \$150,000. Much stalling of cars and interruption of travel. Livestock losses in small areas about \$150,000. Young stock, such as lambs and calves suffered most. In the southwest and some extreme north-central areas, storm was a blizzard.
Dewey, Blaine, Major, Garfield, Grant, and Kay Counties, Okla.	30	12:38-3:20 a. m.	100-600	4	1,087,000	Tornado	Storm began 9 miles southwest of Canton, moved northeastward through Canton and Longdale, 16 miles northeast of Longdale, 3 miles north and northeast of Enid, near Hunter, through Grant County, through Blackwell, and crossed border to near Dexter, Kans.; a total of 130 miles. Rate of progress about 37 m. p. h. Considered a single tornado, with "skipping" effect, although possibility this was a series with clouds dissipating and re-forming as storm progressed. Three deaths in Canton, 1 in Longdale; 31 injured in Canton-Longdale area, 7 injured at Blackwell. Estimated damage: \$750,000 or more at Canton-Longdale; \$37,000 in Garfield County, of which \$30,000 to aircraft at Enid Airport; \$200,000 at Blackwell. Some light hail. Cloudbursts at Fairview and Meno in Major County. At Fairview, about 8 miles to the left of projected path, there was little wind; but 4.01 inches of rain fell, mostly in the 30 minutes from midnight to 12:30 a. m. Estimates of 8 to 10 inches of rain in less than an hour at Meno, 5 miles to the left of projected path.
Cowley County, Kans.	30	4:15 a. m.	1,200	0	10,000	do	All buildings demolished on a farm 2 miles south and 2 miles east of Dexter. Some livestock and many chickens killed. 2 persons injured. Path of destruction apparently less than a mile long. Evidently same tornado that moved from Canton to Blackwell, Okla.
Craig County, Okla.	30	7:30-8 a. m.	-----	0	1,000	do	Small buildings demolished and house moved from foundation 12 miles west of Vinita.
Fulton and southwest Callaway County, Mo.	30	2:20 p. m.	1 1/2	-----	175,000	Hail and rain	Some basements in Fulton flooded, but great majority of damage by hail. Storm hit in strip from New Bloomfield through Guthrie and into Fulton. Greenhouses heaviest sufferers. Many homes reported broken window panes and damaged roofs. Cloth top autos hard hit.
Callaway County, Mo.	30	About 6 p. m.	-----	-----	1,000	Wind	Newspaper clipping reported storm as a "young tornado," but only damage was to a large feeding barn, on farm about 7 miles southwest of Martinsburg.
Jasper County, Miss.	30	8 p. m.	-----	-----	5,000	do	1 home destroyed and 3 damaged; 5 other buildings damaged.
Copiah County, Miss.	30	8 p. m.	-----	-----	8,000	do	2 homes destroyed and 3 damaged.
Chesterfield, Ill.	30	9:15 p. m.	440	0	35,000	Tornado	Origin near Kemper; moved northeastward to 1 mile west of Reeder. Heaviest damage to buildings on 5 farms, 2 miles west of Chesterfield. At Kemper roofs of 5 buildings damaged. No injuries reported. Light hail.
Washington County, Okla.	30	P. m.	-----	-----	1,000	Wind	Roofs of houses and other buildings damaged.
South Dakota, southeastern portion.	30-31	-----	-----	-----	500,000	Snow and wind	Extremely wet snow clung to objects. Cross-arms to telephone poles broke, causing most of trouble. Power and communication lines failed; much loss of food in lockers.

See footnotes at end of table.

SEVERE STORMS FOR MARCH 1949—Continued

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Minnesota, extreme south and east-central counties.	30-31	-----	-----	3	40,000	Glaze, sleet, snow, and wind.	Many poles and wires down. Communication and electric services seriously disrupted. Traffic of all kinds delayed. Much poultry perished. Snow and ice on wires and cables varied from 1/4 to about 6 inches in diameter. Ice began to form on wires about 7 p. m. on 30th in extreme southwest and remained on wires in some localities until 5 p. m. of 31st. Heaviest snow and ice formation between Redwood Falls and New Ulm. Snow unusually moist and clung to wires, trees and shrubbery. About 247 poles down and about 801 wire breaks occurred. Loss to overhead wire systems about \$39,100; to poultry, \$900. Unusually heavy snowstorm in extreme southwest, with 18 inches falling at Tracy and 15 inches at Marshall. Very beneficial in replenishing soil moisture.
Niceville, Fla.-----	31	9 a. m.-----	15-20	0	2,000	Tornado-----	Moved northeastward. 1 house destroyed, several others damaged; some trees uprooted, other twisted off. 1 injury.
Uniontown, Pa.-----	31	6:15-6:40 p. m.	65	0	140,000	-----do-----	Moved eastward in path 6 miles long. Barn ripped apart and overturned; open air movie screen damaged; fruit orchards damaged and 1 destroyed. 2-car garage near Hopwood tossed into air. Uniontown Country Club building partially demolished. 6 homes partially wrecked. 3 persons injured.

¹ Miles instead of yards.

² 1,600 yards at Crowder, 300 yards at Westville.

DELAYED STORM REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1949

Place	Date	Time	Width of path, yards	Loss of life	Value of property destroyed	Character of storm	Remarks
Waimea (vicinity of), Kauai, Hawaiian Islands.	7	-----	-----	-----	\$500,000	Flood-----	Heavy rains mountainward of Waimea caused Makaweli and Waimea streams to overflow, flooding town. Buildings, including many homes, moved from foundations and severely damaged; several collapsed.